

H V

995

T6L8

CBN BRNCH

GenColl

**HISTORY**  
**Lutheran**  
**Orphans' and**  
**Old Folks' Home**  
**TOLEDO**

—  
**By H. C. Bitter**





Class HV 995

Book .T6 L8

Copyright N<sup>o</sup>

COPYRIGHT DEPOSIT.





**PASTOR JOHANNES DOERFLER**  
The Founder

A History  
*of*  
The Lutheran Orphans' and  
Old Folks' Home  
*at*  
Toledo, Ohio

---

By H. C. BITTER

---



1923

THE TOLEDO LUTHERAN PUBLISHING CO.  
TOLEDO, OHIO

HV995  
T6L8

COPYRIGHT, 1923, BY  
H. C. BITTER



AUG 27 1923

©C1A711650

## LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS

	Page
Pastor Johannes Doerfler .....	4
The Board of Trustees.....	8-9
First St. John's Church and Parsonage.....	10
The Farm House.....	16
Orphans' and Old Folks' Home.....	22
Pastor Karl Beckel.....	26
The Grove.....	30
Our Old Folks.....	34
The Orphans' Family.....	38
One of the School Rooms.....	42
The Dining Room.....	46
The Auditorium .....	48
One of the Sleeping Rooms.....	50
The Nursery .....	54
The Office and Reception Room.....	58
The Garden .....	61



## The Board of Trustees



Rev. W. P. Dimke,  
President



Rev. Wm. Wacke,  
Institution Pastor



Rev. E. W. Matzner  
Advisory member



Rev. T. G. Klinksick,  
Secretary



Ernest F. Keller  
Treasurer



Dr. Charles C. Dreyer,  
Chief of Medical Staff  
and Acting Supt.



A. R. Kuhlman  
Vice-president



John F. Wagner



## The Board of Trustees



Oscar Hecklinger



Rev. Theodor Meier



Rev. Max Schleicher



Rev. Harry Schalkhauser



Herman A. Krueger



Arthur Lebowsky



Jacob F. Nesper



Albert Dier



#### THE FIRST ST. JOHN'S CHURCH AND PARSONAGE

It is here that our Children and Old Folks' attend Divine Services. For more than sixty years the Children of our Home have been confirmed in the "Orphans' Home Church," and have been admonished Sunday after Sunday to remain "Faithful unto Death." On the parsonage porch are Pastor Wacke, his daughter and grand-daughter.

## Preamble

For quite a time it has been contemplated to publish a booklet, giving the most interesting facts of the origin and gradual development of our Institutions of mercy on the East Side. Anyone who wishes to see can follow the guiding hand of an all-merciful God in this work, begun some sixty years ago by the sainted Pastor Doerfler and carried on by men who were confident that this work was God's work and therefore could not perish. Acts 5 v. 39. Now our people who have shown such a fine zeal throughout the many years of the existence of these Institutions and who did not rest until an Orphans' Home was erected, which is the pride of all who have participated in the erection thereof, can at their leisure read of the small beginning and gradual development of this God-pleasing work. Throughout all these years the Lord has not withdrawn His



protecting hand in spite of our many failings and sins.

The Orphans' and Old Folks' Home Society hopes that this book will be bought and read by thousands of Lutherans from far and near.

The surplus which the selling of this book may bring, will be used to reduce the debt of the Building Fund. May God bless the journey of this little messenger so that an even greater interest may be awakened in the hearts of our Lutheran constituency, so that our work may be carried on with ever greater efficiency and zeal.

Written July the 2nd, A. D. 1923.

REV. W. P. DIMKE,

President of the Board.



# Foreword

In writing a brief history of our Orphans' Home and Old Folks' Home, I want to first give praise and thanksgiving to our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ, by Whose guiding hand, and through Whose tender mercies these Institutions have now become a monument, not only to the Lutheran Church, but to the entire community. I want to also pay tribute to those men who, away back in the fifties made greater sacrifices than are known today, to establish these Institutions. Among these was the founder, Pastor John Doerfler, H. H. Samson, Christian Rudolph, Henry Blankemeier, J. F. W. Bitter, Jacob Nesper, and perhaps some others. Just a few years later came such venerable and staunch supporters as Clausing, Lalendorff, Schroeder, Koch brothers, Pastor Beckel, Pastor Deindoerfer, Kelb, the Kuhlmanns, Driftmeier and many others. Under God, I want to dedicate this brief history to these men, especially, however, to Pastor Doerfler, the founder of these Institutions; to Pastor

Beckel, who baptized and confirmed me, and to John F. W. Bitter, my sainted grandfather.

The younger generation who may read these pages, must not overlook the fact, that in the early days, or in the days when these Institutions were established, there was not a road beyond what is now Front and Main streets, in East Toledo. Our forefathers followed the trail through the woods to that grand and glorious spot upon the hill where they established this monument. In those days it meant sacrifice to present a cow to an institution. It also meant sacrifice to give one hundred dollars, or even ten dollars. In those days mechanics would walk for miles and toil twelve hours for ten shillings; leather boots were eight dollars per pair, and flour was \$18.00 per barrel.

The facts contained in this brief history for the first fifty years, covering from 1860 to 1910 are gleaned from "Die Geschichte des Luth. Waisenhauses zu Toledo, Ohio," written by Rev. Simon Poppen for the Golden Jubilee of these Institutions.

The Author.

## FIRST PERIOD—1860-1870

During this period, Pastor Johannes Doerfler was director of the Orphans' Home. Let it be remembered that in those days the Old Folks' Home was not yet thought of. Pastor Johannes Doerfler, who was then pastor of Salem Lutheran Church, inspired by Almighty God, conceived the idea to establish an Orphans' Home in Toledo. He solicited the co-operation of Messrs. H. H. Samson, C. Rudolph, H. Blanke-meier, J. F. W. Bitter and Fr. Doerfler. These men with Pastor Doerfler constituted the membership of the Orphans' Home Society. This organization was formed on August 6, 1860. "The Society for General work of Mercy in the Sense of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America" was organized August 15th of the same year. "The Home for Widows and Orphans of Toledo," an English institution, was dissolved at the time this society was organized. Two of the children in that institution were taken into the Doerfler parsonage and treated as members of their own family by Pastor and Mrs. Doerfler. Others were added to the





### THE FARM HOUSE

This is the old house which is several times herein referred to as the "Farm House." In the early days this house was the abode of the Older boys. It is now occupied by the Farmer and his family. The barn, grainery and tool shed are shown to the right.



pastor's family shortly thereafter. Permit me to mention here that Mrs. Pastor Doerfler and Miss Kathrina Blankemeier who was then maid at the parsonage, and who by the way lived until less than two years ago, provided for the pastor's children and the orphans, among whom no distinction whatsoever was made.

Pastor Doerfler, about this time, established the First St. John's Congregation on the East Side, and had for sometime conducted services at the Koehne home and in Clausing's granery. In conversing with the pioneer members of this congregation he found an opportunity to purchase ten acres of ground where the Institution now stands at thirty-five dollars per acre. Mr. Samson donated two acres additional from his adjoining property, making the Orphans' home site twelve acres. Building operations were immediately begun. It is needless to say that most of the labor and a great deal of the material was donated. Pastor Poppen quotes the Protokoll regarding the building as follows: "Many a sigh and many a fervent prayer arose to the Father of all Mercy before this building of mercy and love was completed." By the grace of God, the Home was dedicated on the 7th of July, 1862.

The collection at the dedicatory services amounted to fifty-four dollars. I might state here that I feel that this amount was greater per capita than the collections amount to today. Miss Katherina Blanke-meier was appointed house-mother with her mother as assistant. Pastor Karl Beckel at this time was called to the newly organized St. John's Congregation, and served as teacher for the orphans, as well as for the children of his own parish. On August 12, 1866, Pastor Doerfler resigned the pastorate of Salem Congregation and moved to the Orphans' Home with his family. He served as house-father until January, 1870, when he resigned to accept a call to Bridgewater, Michigan. By the grace of God, Pastor Doerfler was permitted to serve this congregation for a number of years when he was finally called to his reward. He is the founder of our Orphans' Home. We honor his memory and his name will be kept in loving remembrance.

I glean from Rev. Poppen's history that flour at that time was eighteen dollars per barrel. Those were Civil War days. On one occasion during that time the flour bin was empty and the house-father went to the city in hope of finding someone

who would trust him for a barrel of flour. It is stated that the previous barrel, which had already been consumed was not yet paid for. On this trip he was met by a friend of the Institution who expressed his joy at meeting him, because he had started to walk to the Home to inform him that someone had left two barrels of flour at his home as a gift to the orphans. Truly, God hears the prayers of His servants. The first cow was presented to the Orphans' Home by John F. W. Bitter. Salem Congregation presented the institution with its first horse and wagon.

## SECOND PERIOD—1870-1894

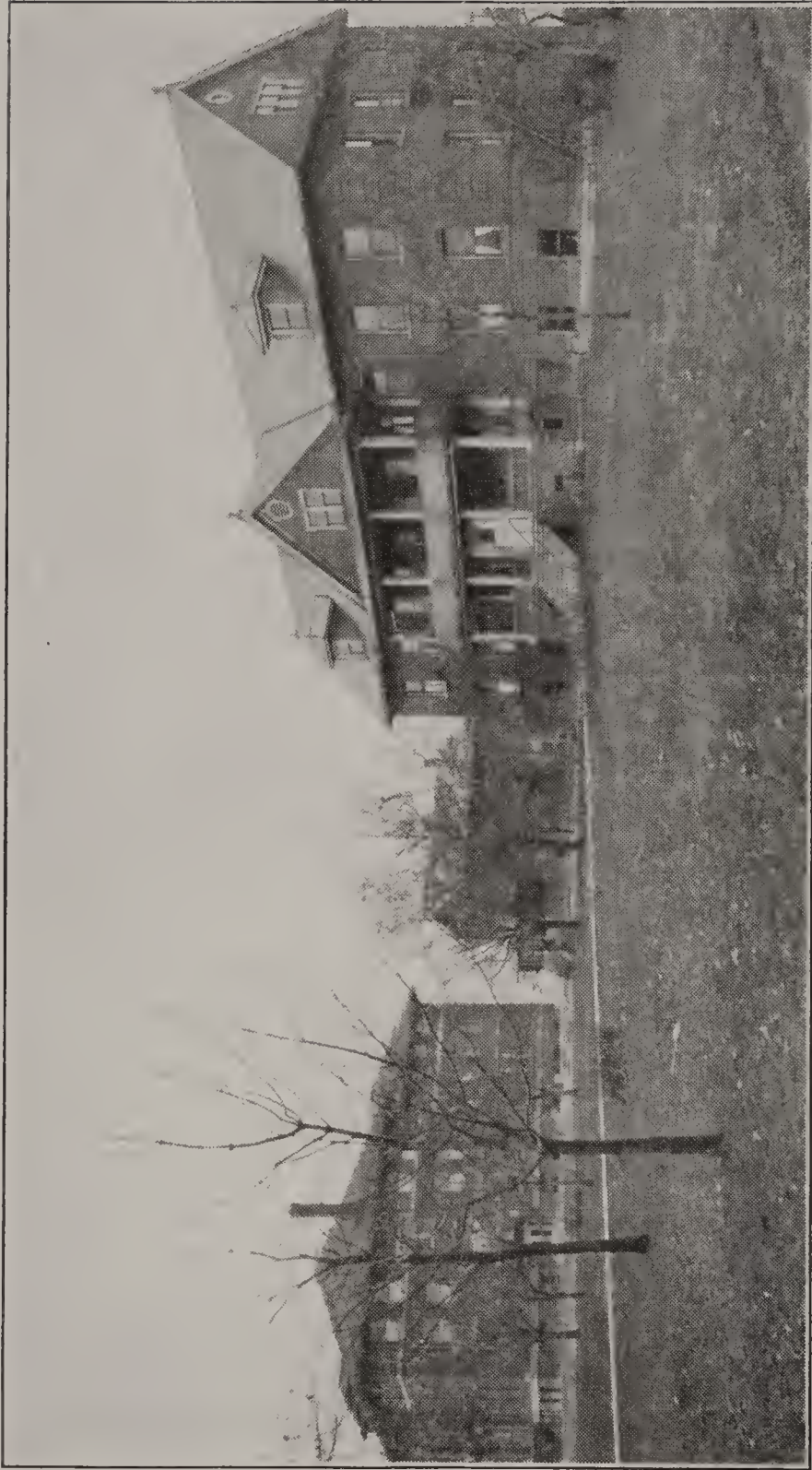
Ten years have passed since the founding of the Institution. Many things have changed during this time, even to the management or rather the Directorship of the Home. Pastor Beckel, pastor of First St. John's Church, is now the Director. History was made during 1870. On the 26th of January of that year, "The Society for General Work of Mercy in the sense of the Evangelical Lutheran Church in North America" held an annual meeting. In addition to the pastors of the city, belonging to the Iowa Synod, there were three laymen in attendance. These were Messrs. H. H. Samson, J. F. W. Bitter and Jacob Nesper. The election of officers at this meeting resulted in the election of Pastor Johannes Deindoerfer, President; Director Karl Beckel, Treasurer, and Pastor Karl Ernst Bode, Secretary. Resolutions were passed extending a call to Mr. Frederick Riehmann, of Mt. Pulaski, Illinois, to accept the position as house-father. Mr. Riehmann accepted and was installed on April 18, 1870. On July 14th of



this same year another meeting was called and the first Trustees of the organization were elected. They were Christian Rudolph, J. F. W. Bitter and Jacob Nesper. At a meeting of the Board of Trustees on December 4, 1870, the secretary reported having received the articles of incorporation from the Secretary of State and having delivered the document to Mr. H. H. Samson. The president, Pastor Deindoerfer had recently accepted a call to St. Paul's Church, Defiance, Ohio; consequently, Director Beckel was elected vice-president at this Board meeting. Miss Bertha Rippas was elected teacher of the Orphans' Home School. As is the custom to this day, the Annual Festivals were held regularly at which devotional services were conducted both in the forenoon and afternoon.

It was the fond hope of the founder of this institution that some day a Deaconess Motherhouse and a Hospital could be built in addition to the Orphans' Home. It was this thought which suggested the name of the organization as recorded in the beginning of this writing.

A considerable sum of money was appropriated for this cause by Pastor Loehe, who also was heartily in favor of establishing



**ORPHANS' HOME — SUPERINTENDENT'S DWELLING — OLD FOLKS' HOME**

There is only one position from which to take a picture of this group of buildings. Therefore, the Children's Dormitory, which is five or six times larger than the Old Folks' Home, does not show up proportionately as it should. These buildings represent an expenditure of \$160,000.00. Their actual value today is considerable more than this amount.

such a colony of institutions. At the annual meeting of the Society, on August 17, 1873, this matter was again discussed. Attention was called to the fact that Deaconesses are particularly adapted to the care and bringing up of orphans. Pastor J. J. Schmidt, of Detroit, Michigan, reported at this meeting that a young lady, Miss Lutz, of his congregation had expressed a willingness to enter the Motherhouse for training for this work. Pursuant to resolutions passed, Miss Lutz was sent to Neuendettelsau, Germany. The expense of her training was paid from the interest earned on the capital loaned the Society by Pastor Loehe. At a Board meeting on July 28, 1874, resolutions were passed electing Sister Anna Lutz as house-mother for the Orphans' Home. Sister Lutz accepted the call and was installed on October 4, 1874. Mr. Riehmman and his family, along with the older boys of the institution then moved into the farm house which still stands across the street from the Institution. On February 23, 1876, Mr. Riehmman resigned his position. A Mr. Forkel was elected successor to Mr. Riehmman. His administration was extremely unsatisfactory, and he was asked to resign at the end of three months' service. A Miss DeMerris also



proved extremely unsatisfactory and was asked to resign after a brief period of service. At this time, Sister Lutz also resigned her position as house-mother. The Directorship of Pastor Beckel was by no means a "constant path of roses." A call was then extended to Mr. Herman Christel, who served the Institution faithfully for many years. At a meeting on June 2, 1876, father Rippas was elected teacher for the Institution and Miss Bertha Rippas was elected house-mother. Both accepted the call. Mr. Christel occupied the farm house across the street and Director Beckel had general supervision of the Institution. By the grace of God, the work of the Institution was again permitted to proceed. Mr. Christel not only served as house-father and economy director, but also served as collector for the Institution.

In those days it was the custom to canvass congregations within a considerable radius from Toledo for money and produce. In fact, this is still the custom to the present day. Pastor Poppen here mentions that the pastors of the Iowa, Ohio and Michigan Synods co-operated heartily in the work of this Institution. He also records the fact that Mrs. Christel was called to her reward



and that some time later Miss Bertha Rippas and Mr. Christel were married and that Mr. Christel was elected house-father of the Institution.

The Bruns Brothers, of Woodville, Ohio, had become warm supporters of the Institution, and tried with word and deed to do everything in their power for this cause. On one occasion Mr. Henry Bruns and Pastor Cronenwett, then pastor of Solomon's Congregation at Woodville, Ohio, invited the entire Orphans' Home family and arranged a service in Solomon's Church, to which the neighboring congregations were all invited. The Pennsylvania Railroad Company provided free transportation for the return trip. An enjoyable day was spent by all.

Such outings in those days were indeed few and far between. Nowadays, or in late years, since our Home commands more general recognition, our children are entertained more frequently. The Toledo Automobile Club, The Lion Store, The White Star Line and several local Brotherhoods provide quite numerous auto tours, excursions to Sugar Island, trips to Toledo Beach, etc.

The first addition to the original home was built in 1881, at a cost of fifteen hundred dollars. At a meeting of the Board of Di-



PASTOR KARL BECKEL

rectors on June 9, 1885, teacher Christian Lohmann was called to the office of teacher at the Institution. In 1888, at a meeting on February 7th, Mr. Christel resigned as house-father. His resignation was accepted with regret. At this meeting, Mr. David Fetzer, of Waterville, Ohio, was elected successor to Mr. Christel. On July 10, 1889, pursuant to Resolutions of the Society, a strip of land was sold to the First St. John's Congregation for a cemetery. The amount received was \$301.65. At the Society meeting on February 4, 1890, the secretary was able to report that fifty-four children, thirty-three boys and twenty-one girls were being cared for at the Home. The household expenses were reported as \$2,435.87, most all of which amount was raised by free will offerings. Upon acceptance of teacher Lohmann's resignation, teacher Oelwein was elected to that position. Teacher Oelwein presented his resignation after less than a year of service. Director, Pastor Beckel, was unable to attend the annual meeting on January 30 and 31, 1894, and was called to his reward shortly thereafter. Pastor Beckel served the Institution and the First St. John's Congregation almost a quarter of a century; a sincere, consecrated Pastor; a

man devoted to the orphans ; a quiet, modest, faithful cross-bearer ; an excellent Christian gentleman ; a doctor who ministered and administered to the physical and spiritual needs of his congregation ; a man subject to call night and day, often riding horse-back or walking through the mud for miles to the bedside of a sick or dying parishioner ; a man who bore the heart pangs of misdeeds of others patiently and quietly. Yea, indeed—

“Blessed are the dead which die in the Lord from henceforth. Yea, saith the Spirit, that they may rest from their labors and their works do follow them.”



## THE THIRD PERIOD—1894-1910

During this period, of which the writer has a fairly clear recollection, the Reverend and Mrs. Frederick Schmeltz had charge of the Institution. Rev. Schmeltz was elected at a Board meeting on February 6, 1894. At this meeting the position of House-father and Director were combined. Mr. Theo. Fickenscher was elected teacher at this meeting. An addition to the Orphans' Home, 31 x 58 feet, was ordered built. A constitution which had been discussed at several previous meetings was adopted at this meeting. At the annual meeting of the society on February 6, 1899, resolutions were passed to build a school house. The contract was awarded to Mr. H. Kuhlman. At this time also, Miss Ottilia Schmeltz was elected teacher of the Orphans' Home school to succeed Mr. Fickenscher, who had accepted a call to St. Petri school. From this time until their school was discontinued, the older orphans attended the Parochial School of the First St. John's Church. Mr. Theodore Fickenscher was called as teacher to succeed Mr. Oelwein.



### THE GROVE

This picture shows that portion of the Grove where for sixty-three years the Bread of Life has been broken at the Annual Festival. In late years the attendance at these services, especially the afternoon, has been numbered in thousands. The seating capacity is about two thousand, but in late years there have been as many standing as were able to find seats.



At the annual meeting, on December 11, 1901, the Director's report contained the information that Jacob Nesper, Sr., had been called to his reward on December 11, 1900. Thus the last of the founders of the Institution had passed. Messrs. Samson, Bitter and Blankemeier had long since entered the realm of glory.

The year 1900 is described in Pastor Popen's history as one signally blessed from above. During that year the Society administered to ninety-nine children and two old people. There were sixty-six children in the Institution at the beginning of the year, thirty-three being added later. The receipts were \$3,196.51; disbursements were \$3,119.82.\*

It was at the annual meeting on January 12, 1904, that Pastor Theo. Meier presented the project of building an Old Peoples' Home. He informed the assembly that the Ohio Pastoral Conference discussed this matter and urged that this project be undertaken at once. Pastor Wm. Wacke had presented this project at the conference at Edon, Ohio, stating that sufficient funds were in sight to begin a building fund. Resolutions were passed favorable to this project, and Pastors R. Klinksick, P. Kluepfel, Conrad S. Ide and

Wm. Wacke were appointed an Old Folks' Home committee. At this meeting the Misses Martha Stremper and Edith Plau were elected teachers of the Orphans' Home School.

At a meeting of the Iowa Synod, at Hamler, Ohio, on June 18, 1905, a special meeting of the Orphans' Home Society was called, at which pastor Theodor Meier fully outlined the Old Folks' Home project. Cash and pledges at this time amounted to \$3,742.15. Resolutions were unanimously passed, directing the Orphans' Home Board to proceed with the building during that present year. Messrs A. R. Kuhlman and Otto Ruch were added to the Board, as Building Committee. The Committee met on March 8, 1906 and accepted plans drawn and presented by Architect A. Liebold. Bids were considered and the contract was awarded to Mr. Otto Ruch.

Building operations were immediately begun. So rapid was the progress made, that the corner stone was laid on Sunday, May 13th, of the same year. Pastor Poppen delivered the German address, and the English address was delivered by Pastor R. Klinksick. Salem choir rendered the anthems at these festivities. Pastor Frederick Schmeltz,



Director of the Orphans' Home, laid the corner stone in the name of the Triune God. Because of the severe inclemency of the weather the attendance was not very large. The collection amounted to approximately eighty dollars.

The Old Folks' Home, which is located just east of the Children's Dormitory on the Orphans' Home property, was dedicated on Sunday, October 21, 1906.

The services were held in First St. John's Church. Pastor William Wacke officiated at the altar. Pastor J. Appel and the General President of the Iowa Synod, Rev. F. Richter, D.D., delivered the sermons at the forenoon service. Rev. Frederick Schmeltz performed the Dedicatory rite at the Home. Thus the Old Folks' Home was dedicated to the Works of Love and Mercy.

During the noon hour the weather had moderated considerably, so that the afternoon services were held in the open. Rev. W. P. Dimke, then at Waterville, Ohio, delivered the English address at the afternoon service. Pastor A. Harper and Pastor C. D. Boomgarden, who was then at Deshler, Ohio, and who is now at Bethlehem Church, Toledo, delivered the German addresses. The receipts on the day of dedication amounted



#### OUR OLD FOLKS

Those who have never visited our Old Folks' Home can form but a faint imagination of the real worth of this Haven of Rest, where our Old Folks are permitted to spend life's evening under the loving care of the Sisters. Eleven of the Old Folks were unable to come out for this picture.



to \$440.00. This building is a very stately structure, 36 x 80 feet, with an additional wing for kitchen and dining room. In addition to the office, the reception room and spacious hall, the building contains thirty-four rooms. The cost of construction, exclusive of furnishings, was approximately sixteen thousand dollars.

Pastor H. Brandt served the Institution as Director from September, 1911 to September, 1913. At this time an appeal was again sent to Rev. Frederick Schmeltz, who so faithfully served the Institution from 1894 to 1911, to again accept the position of Director. Rev. Schmeltz saw fit to accept and served from 1913 to June, 1916. Rev. F. W. Dietz served as superintendent from June, 1916 to January, 1919. Miss Lydia Merkle served as teacher of the Orphans' Home School from September, 1909 to the fall of 1912. Miss Caroline Muschick taught the school from the fall of 1912 until the spring of 1919. Miss Minnie Soennichsen served a short period and broke down under the strain. Miss Hilda Proehl and Miss Muschick finished the season of 1919-1920.

On November 1, 1918, Mr. C. G. Mahnke, who was then teacher at Salem parochial school, assumed the duties of Field Secretary

of the Institutions. At the annual meeting in 1919 Mr. Mahnke was also elected to the position of Superintendent.

The need of a new Children's Dormitory had been felt for several years. In fact the Board had established what is known as the Orphans' Home Building Fund, and had made some effort to secure pledges and cash for this cause.

At the annual meeting of the Society, in February, 1916, a Building Fund Committee was elected after some discussion. At the time when this committee was elected there were some four thousand dollars in the building fund. Resolutions were also passed at this meeting to inaugurate a campaign for funds in view of securing sufficient moneys for a suitable building. The Society had formerly planned the construction of a building at the cost of about twenty-five thousand dollars. The discussion of this project at this annual meeting resulted in a much larger vision for the future, and the Society's goal was then set for at least one hundred thousand dollars for a new building. This Building Fund Committee was composed of Dr. W. W. Penske, chairman; H. C. Bitter, Financial and Recording Secretary; A. R. Kuhlman, Treasurer, and Ernest



Trempf, John Balsmeyer, Henry Hildebrandt and Dr. Charles C. Dreyer. This committee held numerous meetings to plan a campaign and also drafted aids from each of the local Lutheran congregations.

This committee with its aids, succeeded in raising the building fund to somewhat over twenty thousand dollars within a year. The experiences of this committee again bore out the fact that it is much more difficult to interest people in giving to an invisible project, than it is to secure cash and pledges to pay for an Institution which is already erected. Pressure from the State Supervisor of Public Institutions made other action necessary. In fact the old building was condemned by the State and something had to be done in order that a new building might become a fact.

At the annual meeting of the Society this matter was again gone into thoroughly. Action was there taken directing the Board of Trustees to sell bonds in the amount of eighty thousand dollars to bear interest at four per cent, in denominations of fifty dollars; these bonds to mature in ten years.

The Bond Sale Committee was composed of Rev. Harry P. Long, C. G. Mahnke, F. H. Landwehr, Ernest Trempf, Rev. E. W.



### THE ORPHANS' FAMILY

Have you contributed your portion toward the care of this family? These are the children entrusted to our care. Doesn't it make a feeling of pride swell within you to be able to conscientiously and truthfully say, "I have done my share?" Under the care and supervision of the Sisters and the teachers there is here such Christian atmosphere as really builds Christian men and women.

Matzner, H. C. Bitter, Ernest F. Keller, A. R. Kuhlman, Albert Dier and Jacob F. Nesper.

This committee was organized by electing F. H. Landwehr, Chairman, and E. F. Keller, Secretary. At the meeting of organization which was held just a few days after the annual meeting, \$8,750.00 were reported sold. The committee resolved to complete its task of selling the \$80,000.00 by April 1st. On the February 23, 1918, issue of The Toledo Lutheran, a thermometer appeared with the old Home at the bottom and the new Home at the top of the mercury. This thermometer registers Bond sales at weekly intervals as follows: February 23, \$15,300.00; March, 2, \$23,800.00; March 9, \$33,750.00; March 16, \$42,850.00; March 23, \$53,850.00; March 30, \$70,000.00. In its issue of April 6th The Toledo Lutheran reports the eighty thousand dollar Bond issue oversold three thousand dollars.

There were several sales of two thousand dollars each, and quite a number bought one thousand dollars each. There were also quite a number who bought five hundred dollars worth of these bonds.

On April 13th the bond sale committee met as guests of Mr. Kuhlman, and it was



there reported that more than eleven thousand dollars had already been paid. The Toledo Lutheran Publishing Company office was named as a meeting place of this committee until its work is completed.

At a meeting of the Orphans' Home Board, April 20, 1918, the following Building Committee was elected: A. R. Kuhlman, Chairman; Dr. C. C. Dreyer, Ernest F. Keller, Charles C. F. Sieving and Wm. G. Wacker. The contract for the new children's dormitory was let to the Henry J. Spieker Company, General Contractors. Ground was broken for the new Children's Dormitory on June 4, 1918. In this issue, The Toledo Lutheran reports that \$65,720.00 has been paid on the bond subscription of \$80,000.00. The remainder was paid in shortly afterwards.

Almost marvelous progress was made with the building of the new Childrens' Home. In fact, so rapid was the progress that the corner stone was laid on Sunday afternoon, July 28, 1918, within sixty days from the beginning. In spite of the intense heat, which was almost unendurable, there were about one thousand people in attendance at this corner stone laying celebration.

Pastor Wm. Wacke conducted the liturgical part of this service. Mr. A. R. Kuhlman,



Chairman of the Building Committee, presided. Appropriate anthems for this occasion were rendered by the St. Petri Choir. The corner stone was laid by Pastor Frederick Schmeltz, who so faithfully served this Institution as Director for nineteen years.

The Festival speakers were Rev. A. E. Guetzlaff, of Capac, Michigan; Rev. W. P. Dimke, President of the Lutheran Orphans' and Old Folks' Home Society; and Rev. Harry P. Long, who was then Lutheran Inner-Missionary in Toledo.

Rev. Guetzlaff spoke on Psalm 118, verses 22 to 25. His subject was, "This is the Day which Jehovah hath Made, Let us Rejoice and be Glad in It." Rev. Guetzlaff's address was an eloquent piece of oratory, wherein he gave God the honor for the success thus far. And wherein he implored, "Oh, Jehovah, we Beseech Thee, Send now Prosperity."

Rev. Dimke's text was taken from Psalm 127 the first verse, "Except the Lord Build the House they Labor in Vain that Build It." It will hardly be necessary to state how this text was applied on this occasion. Rev. Dimke's address was one of praise and thanksgiving to Almighty God for success achieved, calling attention to the efforts and



### ONE OF OUR SCHOOL ROOMS

This picture shows a portion of one of the two School Rooms at the Home. Here our children are not only given a thorough elementary secular training, but they are also thoroughly catechized and indoctrinated in Christian Truths. A privilege of which all too many children are deprived in our day.

hardships of the founders of this Institution. The speaker also called the attention of the children to the fact that they too, should be thankful that Christian Charity is endeavoring to erect such a magnificent Home for them. How they ought to strive to live in peace and harmony with one another; how they ought to vie with one another in submitting obediently to the rules and regulations of the Home.

Reverend Long, in his magnificent address reviewed the history of Lutheran Orphans' Homes. He apprized his hearers of the fact that there are sixty-six Lutheran Orphans' Homes in the United States: That these Homes provide an abode for about forty-three hundred homeless children bereft of their parents. The property is valued at about five million dollars. He said that the greatest Orphans' Home in the world, which has been the model for most of the Orphans' Homes for the last two hundred years, is a Lutheran Orphans' Home, which was established by August Herman Franke, at Halle, and continues until this day to be the Home of about two thousand children. The speaker also related the fact that our Orphans' Home comes within six years of being the oldest Institution of its kind in the Lutheran;



Church in America. He also called attention to the fact that the Home was founded by the sainted Pastor Doerfler in the dark and gloomy days of the Civil War; and also that this new Home is being constructed during the darkest days in the history of the world, during the World War.

Early in October, 1918, the Orphans' Home Board announced the Bonds ready for delivery. The Bond sale committee was again called into active service, each being requested and agreeing gladly to deliver the Bonds sold by him. At the meeting of the Bond Sale Committee on October 8th, announcement was made that \$1,300.00 in bonds had already been donated to the building fund. The Toledo Lutheran had, editorially, from the beginning of this campaign, predicted that before the ten years expired, fifty percent of these Bonds would be donated. At this writing, January, 1923, about four and one-half years have passed and over thirteen thousand dollars worth of these Bonds have been donated to date. We still feel and hope that our prediction will materialize.

On Sunday, April 6, 1919, the new Children's Dormitory which stands out as a Gibraltar among the buildings on the East Side



in Toledo, was dedicated. Reverend A. F. Augustine, President of the Western District of the Iowa Synod; Rev. H. L. Fritschel, Rector of the Passavant Institutions of Milwaukee; Rev. M. W. Brueckner, of Alpena, Michigan, and Rev. L. H. Schuh, Ph. D., were the festival speakers on this occasion. Rev. W. P. Dimke, President of the Lutheran Orphans' and Old Folks' Home Society performed the Dedicatory Rite. The Salem Lutheran Choir, directed by Mr. Charles C. F. Sieving, and accompanied by Miss Domrose, rendered the anthems at this Festival. The forenoon service was held in the First St. John's Church, where only a portion of the attendance could gain admittance. Rev. A. F. Augustine and Rev. Fritschel were the speakers at the forenoon service. Rev. M. Brueckner and Dr. L. H. Schuh delivered the afternoon addresses. The attendance on this festive occasion was estimated at forty-five hundred persons. The plate collections amounted to \$2,084.06. In addition to this there was an individual donation of one thousand dollars toward the furnishings of the boys dormitory. All the other rooms in the entire building except the auditorium, had been pledged previous to the day of dedication. The furnishings for the auditorium



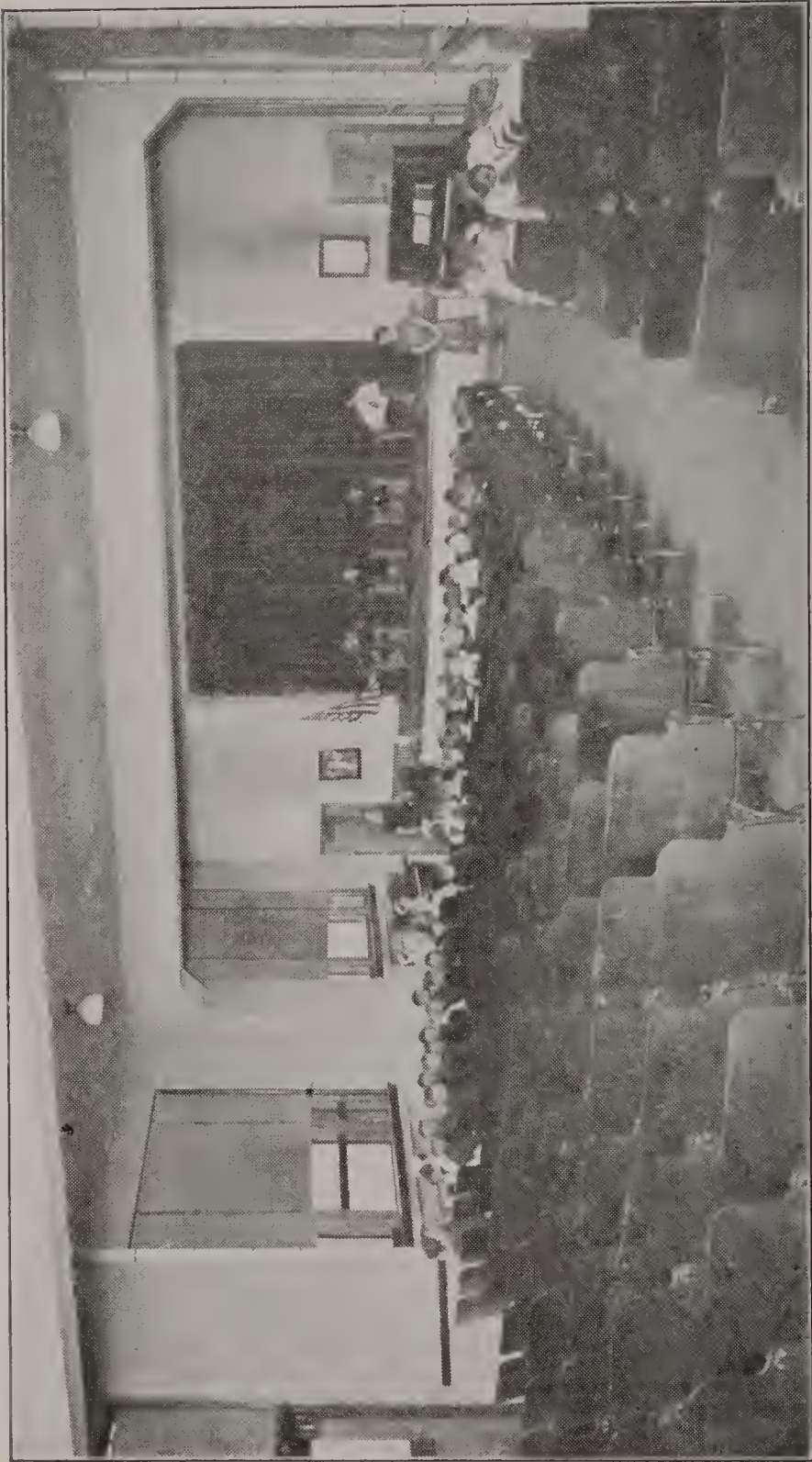
#### DINING ROOM

Here is where the entire Orphans' Family partakes of its Daily Bread for both body and soul. Those standing were seated at the first table, too close to the camera. This picture was taken at the close of a noon meal. Here is one Dining Room where Thanks are always given.

were later pledged and supplied by The Federation of Brotherhoods of Toledo. The procession from the old home to the new, was led by the superintendent, and Rev. Dimke, President of the Society. Then followed members of the Board of Trustees, the Deaconesses and the entire Orphans Family. The singing of "Jesus Still Lead On, Till our Rest is Won," added to the impressiveness of the procession. We want to stop here to say that sixty years ago last summer, the sainted Pastor Beckel was escorted into the Home by Pastor Doerfler and his school children, singing this same wonderful hymn in the German language, "Jesu Geh Voran."

The new Dormitory contains, in its basement, the main dining room, kitchen, large laundry room, furnace room which contains the heating plant for the entire Institution and a small dining room. The first floor contains the Deaconesses sleeping rooms and parlor, the Institution office, the reception parlor, two school rooms and an auditorium with seating capacity of three hundred and fifty. This auditorium by the way has proven to be a wonderful asset to the Institution. Meetings are held there from time to time by various organizations, which





### THE AUDITORIUM

This picture shows the graduation exercises of the Orphans' Home Parochial School with only the Orphans' Home family in attendance. Many local Church Societies use this Auditorium for entertainments, which not only entertain our children, but bring many people to the Home, who perhaps otherwise would not become interested in its welfare.

bring many people in close touch with the Home, who otherwise might not have this opportunity or occasion.

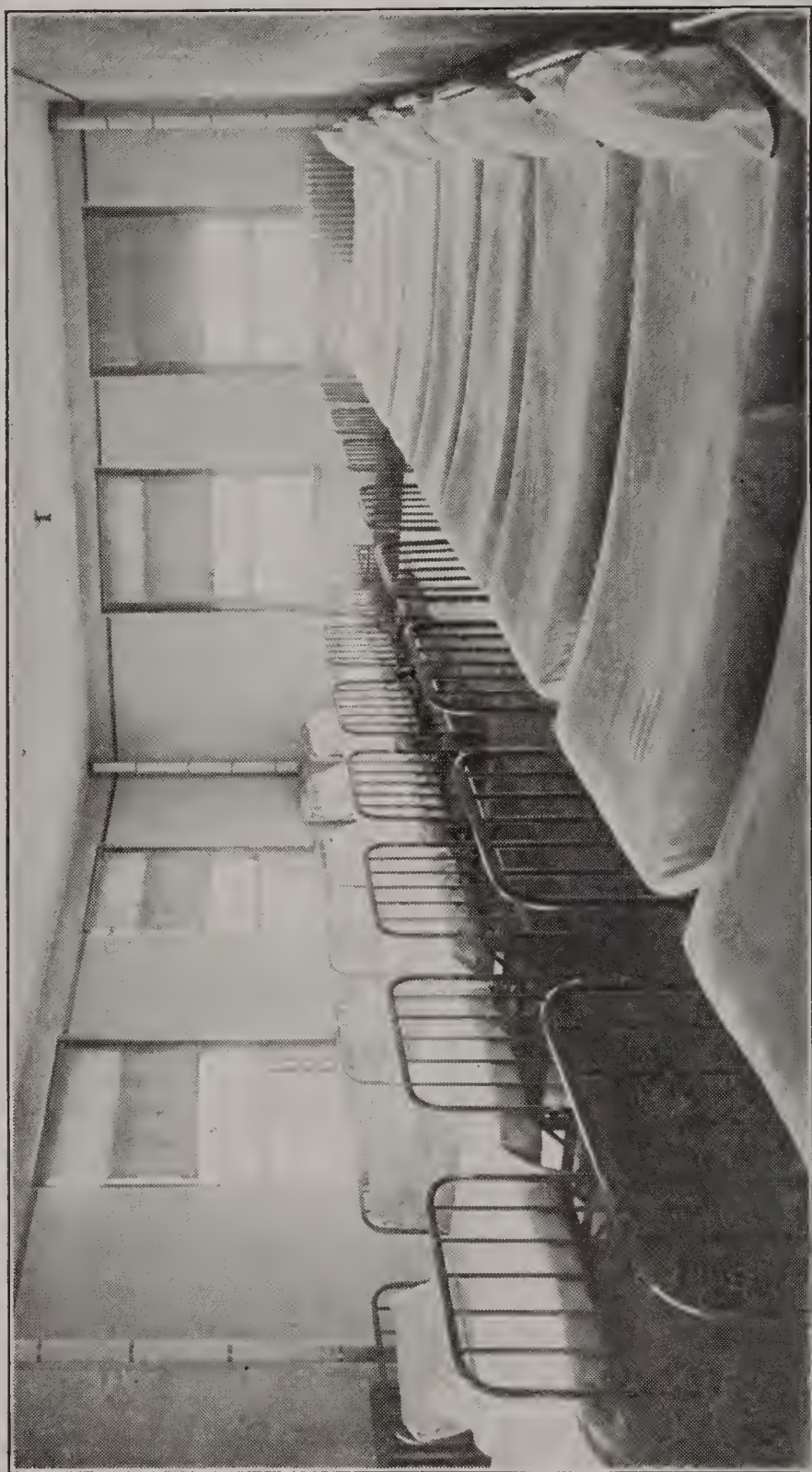
The second floor contains the sleeping quarters for the smaller children, the teacher's living quarters, the open air play room, and the sewing room.

On the third floor are sleeping quarters for the larger children, the attendants' living rooms and the Hospital. The building is strictly modern in every respect, and as nearly fire-proof as modern methods of construction can make it.

That the Orphans' Home maintains a Christian day school with two teachers, is a feature that we dare not pass without comment. We have previously stated and will here repeat that thousands upon thousands of children have cause to envy the children who are brought up at our Institution on Seaman street. The children brought up at our Orphans' Home are not only taught the studies of the Public Schools, and are able to take their position in High School when graduating from the eighth grade of our school, but are also given Religious Instruction every day in the year.

Since July 1, 1918, when Sister Martha Proehl arrived and was placed in charge of





### SLEEPING ROOM

Here our friends may view one of the four Sleeping Rooms in the Children's Dormitory. Large and well ventilated. An attendant sleeps in an adjoining room to each of these four sleeping rooms, thereby keeping perfect order and also assuring proper care in case of sudden illness.



the smaller children, Deaconesses have been in charge of the Home. Sister Helen Panning arrived at the Institution on December 1, 1918. Sister Marie Eckhoff and Sister Minna Kuethe arrived some time later and are in charge of the Old Folks' Home. Sister Eckhoff is the matron. Sister Martha Proehl is matron of the Orphans' Home.

With the enlargement of the Institution, and with the changing laws regarding such Institutions, the administrative work is of an entirely different nature than it was in former years. In fact the duties of the Superintendent are so manifold that for the past four years Mrs. Frieda Fritz has been employed at the Home as office secretary. Mrs. Fritz, because of her thorough knowledge of both languages, and her devotion to the cause, is particularly qualified for this position. The Field Secretary has visited congregations in Texas during the past year, with very remarkable results. After addressing and canvassing thirty congregations, his pledges secured amounted to over forty thousand dollars. The Texas District of the Iowa Synod was given to the Toledo Institution at a meeting of Synod two years ago.

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees

held on February 8, 1923, the resignation of Mr. Mahnke, as Superintendent, was unanimously accepted. At the March meeting of the Board, Dr. Charles C. Dreyer was elected Acting Superintendent of the Institution. At this writing Dr. Dreyer is still serving in that capacity.

The personel at the Institution at this writing is as follows:

Old Folks' Home—Sister Marie Eckhoff, Matron; Sister Minna Kuethe, Miss Floy Ruehle, and Miss Helen Moll.

Orphans' Home—Sister Martha Proehl, Matron; Sister Helen Panning, Sister Edith Hansen, Miss Heldegard Proehl, attendant small girls; Miss Anna Johnson, attendant small boys; Miss Margarete Mussgang and Miss Rosa Engelbrecht, teachers; Miss Frieda Bodtke, cook; Miss Elizabeth Gype and Mrs. Sophie M. Wells, seamstresses; Mrs. Frieda C. Fritz, office secretary; Harry E. Bock, supervisor of boys; Christ Onnenga, farmer. Miss Ella Kraushaar served as teacher from 1920-1922.

In order to give our friends an idea of the growing interest in the annual festivals which have been held annually since 1862, we want to state that in 1862 the offering amounted to \$54.00. In 1870, \$185.00; in

1880, \$306.00; in 1890, \$254.00; in 1900, \$277.00; in 1909, \$668.00; in 1920, \$2,753.00. At this writing there are eighty-one children at the Orphans' Home, forty-six boys and thirty-five girls, ranging in age from two months to eighteen years. At the Old Folks' Home there are thirty-eight old people; sixteen men and twelve women.

The present Board of Trustees is composed of: Rev. W. P. Dimke, President; A. R. Kuhlman, Vice-president; Rev. Theodore G. Klinksick, Secretary; Ernest F. Kelier, Treasurer; Dr. Chas. C. Dreyer, Oscar Hecklinger, H. A. Krueger, Rev. Theo. Meier, Jacob Nesper, Rev. Max Schleicher, Rev. H. Schalkhausser, Albert Dier, Arthur Lebow-sky, John F. Wagner. Rev. E. W. Matzner, Marine City, Mich., is advisory member of the Board. Dr. Chas. C. Dreyer is chief of the medical staff. Dr. W. W. Penske is the dental surgeon. Reverend William Wacke is ex-officio member of the Board and Pastor of the Institution.

Earlier in this writing we have spoken of the Christian Day School that is being conducted and maintained at our Orphans' Home. It is impossible to overestimate the value of such a school. One of our pictures herein shows the auditorium during the





### THE NURSERY

Several families bereft of parents are here represented. Note the two babies in the crib. Our Home cares for all ages. When Mother's arms are stilled by death, substitutes are provided here. Can your mind conceive a more laudable work?

You will note that several of the little ones appear afraid. There is a reason—This was the third "flash light" picture taken within an hour.

Graduating Exercises. Pupils graduating from this school are not only able to take their places as freshmen in High School along with eighth grade graduates of our public schools, but also have a religious education which is impossible to secure anywhere, only in a Christian day school. We want to add this to what we have said before in defense of the Christian Day School, not only at our Lutheran Orphans' Home, but in all Lutheran Congregations who still are old fashioned enough to believe that it is necessary to teach their children the fundamentals of Christian Truth. This may not be entirely in place in a Lutheran Orphans' Home History, but we want to express the opinion, in fact, we want to predict that it will not be long before many congregations will regret the day when they took action to discontinue their Lutheran Parochial Schools.

We cannot close this writing without a few words on the business administration of our Institution. To the readers of this brief sketch of historical facts we have quoted a few figures on annual expenditures back in the early days. Please let it be understood that in those days, both laws and salaries were entirely different than they are today. Our law-makers have made so many laws

governing Institutions of Mercy that it not only costs more to live and more to die than in former days, but it also costs a great deal more to conduct an Orphans' and Old Folks' Home, according to the laws of the State. Our Institution office conducts just as fine and accurate an accounting system as is conducted by any of the largest corporations in the land. In order to be able to present a statement of receipts and disbursements to the State authorities and also to the Toledo Community Chest, all products from the farm from a quart of berries, a dozen of eggs, a gallon of milk, to the corn or hay are accounted for at prevailing market prices. This, and the proper crediting of all funds requires a thoroughly efficient accountant, which our Institution is fortunate to have in Mrs. Frieda Fritz, the Office Secretary. Purchases of commodities required for the Institution must be made in the open market. This also requires a man as superintendent who has a thorough knowledge, not only of the Institution's requirements, but also where he may procure them. There is not nearly as much sentiment in the business world today as there was fifty years or twenty-five years ago. In the earlier days the average merchant would sharpen his



pencil and figure his price on supplies for an Institution like ours, down to an absolute minimum. True there are still some today who have this same sentiment. But, the great majority treat an Institution of mercy just the same as they do any other Institution which is brought into existence for profit. Let us all strive to retain the faith and spirit of our fathers (in and toward acts of mercy), never growing weary in well-doing, for the harvest indeed will be a joyous one, if we faint not.



#### OFFICE AND RECEPTIVE ROOM

It is here that the business of the Institution is conducted and the guests are received. In the Reception Room, beyond the Office, one can frequently see a father, where mother has been taken away, visiting with his children on Sunday afternoon.

## A Closing Word

In glancing back over these sixty-two years of history of what I consider the greatest of all Institutions, because I know of no greater work than to care for Orphans and Old Folks, I want to impress upon the minds of those who may chance to read these lines, that the conducting of this Institution has not been a "constant path of roses." Many have been the hardships and many have been the heart-aches of the trustees and officers in charge.

The support of the child, deprived of the loving care of a mother, and the support of an old grandfather or grandmother, who is facing life's evening, unable to care for him or herself, is an absolute duty we owe to God and to humanity. Our venerable forefathers who founded this Institution and whom God endowed with a vision and with sympathy, have long since been called to



their reward. Many of those who have labored so faithfully and have given the best of their lives to what is now **our** Institution, have also been called to their reward. It is now for **us** who are able, to assume the duties, and to give of our means and of our service, that this God-pleasing work be maintained and promoted.



The Garden provides exercise for those who are still able.  
Light work is not only healthful, but also provides pastime.







LIBRARY OF CONGRESS



0 038 738 287 2